

September 12, 2023

On behalf of the 108 undersigned organizations, we urge you to oppose H.R. 3397, S. 1435 and additional legislative efforts to undermine the on-going BLM public lands rule rulemaking process. These partisan efforts circumvent the administrative process, stifle public input, ignore the law, and halt an overdue update, which seeks to balance management at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The draft [public lands rule](#), introduced by the BLM in March, does not preclude any uses, as the messaging around these legislative efforts would have you believe. Rather, it puts conservation on equal footing with grazing, mining and energy production, and promotes restoration, provides for responsible development, and conserves intact healthy landscapes. The rule also provides for compensatory mitigation and improves land health, vital tools to ensure responsible renewable energy projects proceed and that the BLM may continue to produce a sustained yield for American taxpayers.

Since the release of the draft rule, there have been inaccurate claims made that it is illegal and inconsistent with the BLM's "multiple use and sustained yield" mission. In response to these claims, several legal scholars with expertise in public land management and administrative law issued the following statement:

The BLM's proposed public lands rule is entirely consistent with Congress's requirement in federal law that BLM manage the public lands for conservation as well as consumption; that is, "for multiple use and sustained yield." Congress expressly stated that conservation includes "protect[ing] the quality of the scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resources, and archaeological values."

Additionally, BLM is in the process of reviewing comments from over 216,000 Americans representing all 50 states - of which a recent analysis showed 92% were supportive. Moving forward with this legislation would effectively eliminate public input on the federal process. It is critical that we allow this process to play out as intended and ensure each of those voices are heard.

Finally, this bill sets a dangerous precedent by prohibiting BLM from taking "*any action to finalize, implement, or enforce*" the proposed rule or "*any substantially similar rule.*" This legislative poison pill undermines agency expertise in future public land management efforts. In the face of increasing wildfire, drought and increasing environmental challenges ahead, tying the hands of the agency going forward to manage resilient landscapes, protect clean water and functioning watersheds, allow for durable mitigation for renewable energy development on public lands with robust community input is reckless and irresponsible.

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose H.R. 3397, S. 1435 and additional legislative efforts to undermine the on-going BLM public lands rule rulemaking process.

Sincerely,

Alabama Rivers Alliance
Alaska Wilderness League Action
Alta Peak Chapter of California Native Plant Society
Amargosa Conservancy
American Bird Conservancy
Buffalo Field Campaign
Californians for Western Wilderness
CalWild
Center for Biological Diversity
Civilized Humanity
Colorado Farm & Food Alliance
Colorado Wildlands Project
Conservation Colorado
Conservation Lands Foundation
Conservation Northwest
Conserve Southwest Utah
Corday Natural Resources Consulting
Creation Justice Ministries
Defenders of Wildlife
Dolores River Boating Advocates
Earthjustice
Endangered Habitats League
Endangered Species Coalition
Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
For Love of Water (FLOW)
Freshwater Mollusk Conservation Society
Friends & Neighbors of the Deschutes Canyon Area
Friends of Arizona Joshua Tree Forest
Friends of Blackwater, Inc.
Friends of Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument
Friends of Gilham Butte
Friends of Gold Butte
Friends of Heber Valley
Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Friends of the Dunes
Friends of the Inyo
Friends of the Lost Coast
Friends of the Organ Mountains Desert-Peaks
Friends of the River
Friends of the San Pedro Inc
Friends of Yaquina Lighthouses

Georgia Interfaith Power and Light
Get Outdoors Nevada
Grand Canyon Trust
Grand Staircase Escalante Partners
Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association
Great Lakes Wildlife Alliance
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
Greater Yellowstone Coalition
GreenLatinos
High Country Conservation Advocates
Hispanic Access Foundation
Honor the Earth
Idaho Conservation League
Idaho Rivers United
Islanders for the San Juan Islands National Monument
John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute
Kettle Range Conservation Group
King Range Alliance
Klamath Forest Alliance
League of Conservation Voters
Los Angeles Audubon Society
Los Padres ForestWatch
Mattole Restoration Council
Micah Six Eight Mission
Mojave Desert Land Trust
Montana Conservation Voters
National Federation of Federal Employees
National Wolfwatcher Coalition
Natural Environments, Inc.
Natural Resources Defense Council
New Hampshire Audubon
New Mexico Wild
Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness
Nuestra Tierra Conservation Project
NY4WHALES
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Oregonians For Wild Utah
Piedras Blancas Light Station Association
Predator Defense
Project Eleven Hundred
Resource Renewal Institute
Rocky Mountain Wild
Rural Utah Project
San Juan Citizens Alliance

Sierra Club
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council
Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance
Standing Trees
The International Wildlife Coexistence Network
The Urban Wildlands Group
The Wilderness Society
Trail Access Project
Trinidad Coastal Land Trust
Tuleyome
Upper Gila Watershed Alliance
Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
Voices of Wildlife in New Hampshire
Waterkeeper Alliance
Waterkeepers Chesapeake
Western Slope Conservation Center
Wild Arizona
Wild Montana
Wilderness Workshop
Winyah Rivers Alliance
Wyoming Interfaith Network
Wyoming Outdoor Council
Wyoming Wilderness Association